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PEACE AND SECURITY COUNCIL
255TH MEETING
ADDIS ABABA, ETHIOPIA
23 DECEMBER 2010

PSC/PR/COMM.2(CCLV)

PRESS STATEMENT

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The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU), at its 255th meeting held on 23 December 2010, was briefed by the Special Representative of the Chairperson of the Commission for Guinea Bissau and Head of the AU Liaison Office in that country, Professor Sebastiao da Silva Isata, on the evolution of the situation and the AU efforts in Guinea Bissau.

Council reiterated the terms of the Communiqué issued at its 247th meeting held on 2 November 2010, and noted the re-affirmed readiness of the Bissau-Guinean authorities to receive the Joint AU/ECOWAS Stabilization Mission and their commitment to the reform of the security and defense sector.

Council took note of the recommendations of the 28th ministerial session of the ECOWAS Mediation and Security Committee, held in Abuja on 24 November 2010, requesting the Joint ECOWAS/CPLP Committee to establish a coordination mechanism to accelerate the implementation of the Roadmap for the reform of the security and defense sector in Guinea-Bissau, and stressed the need to design this mechanism within the framework of a joint AU-ECOWAS-CPLP, in accordance with the Plan of Action of the Tripoli Special Session of 31 August 2009. Council requested the Commission to approach the bilateral and multilateral partners of Guinea-Bissau for the early convening of the planned donors' conference, to facilitate the implementation of the reform of the security and defense sector.

Council also took note of the expressed willingness of the Bissau-Guinean parties to establish a Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the determination of the authorities to fully conduct the investigations into the assassinations committed in March and June 2009, as well as to combat drug trafficking. In the same vein, Council requested the Commission to take the necessary steps to assist the Bissau-Guinean authorities in the conduct of the ongoing investigations and the drafting of legislation criminalizing the possession, transfer, processing and trafficking of drugs, as well as the establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

Council reiterated AU's commitment to continue its efforts towards peace building and development in Guinea Bissau, as well as the democratic functioning of the country's institutions.